

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Immediately before the paragraph that starts on line 21 of page 13 ("Although only a few embodiments ..."), please insert the following new additional paragraph:

Embodiments include a computer-readable medium including computer code configured to perform the design of an integrated circuit, the computer code configures to effectuate the following: defining a physical design of the circuit while tracking an error in prediction of a timing value associated with one or more nets in the circuit; and determining a physical placement level of the circuit when the error in prediction of the timing value satisfies a predetermined threshold. A computer system configured to perform the design of an integrated circuit, the computer system comprising: a physical design module configured to define a physical design of the circuit while tracking an error in prediction of a timing value associated with one or more nets in the circuit; and a physical placement level module configured to determine a physical placement level of the circuit when the error in prediction of the timing value satisfies a predetermined threshold.